

Statement of Unity

Earth Day April 22, 2000



Sustainability is emerging as a principal theme of the new millennium. The 30th anniversary of both Earth Day and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency provide the symbolic context linking America's past environmental performance to our future needs. Moreover, a series of key milestones over these thirty years....

- National Environmental Policy Act, 1969
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992
- Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, 1992
- President's Council on Sustainable Development, 1996, 1999
- National Energy Policy Act of 1992

along with a host of new laws, Presidential Executive Orders, regulations, policies, and Federal Agency initiatives, all give rise to the compelling opportunity for demonstrating Federal leadership on sustainability.

Sustainability is basically a concept about the *interconnectedness* of the environment, the economy, and social equity. It is a journey - a path forward - through which we demonstrate responsibility for our future legacy. It is a vision - an aspiration - for a better life for our children and our children's children.

The various missions of the Federal Agencies give concrete expression to the concept of sustainability through our individual programs and initiatives and through our collective leadership values. We demonstrate sustainable practices within the Federal sector and thereby promote and facilitate state and local action and positive performance by the private sector. As public entities working to advance the public interest, Federal Agencies through leadership and example can inspire all of society to advance an agenda for sustainability.

We are therefore creating a collaborative network of Federal Agencies, initially focused in the Pacific region, to be known as the **"Federal Network for Sustainability"**. We envision an open network in which all parties can flourish and work together. We acknowledge and validate the good works of others, and embrace their contributions in an open and growing collaboration. The Network is expected to grow and expand over time as new linkages are established. Other interested Federal Agencies are encouraged to participate and become signatories. The Network will also be "virtual" as we seek to use the Internet for communication and public access.

The **Federal Network for Sustainability** intends to focus its efforts in the following areas:

- Develop and coordinate the network
- Create and manage an information-sharing clearinghouse
- Develop and deliver training for network members
- Communicate ideas through conferences and meetings
- Seek linkages and partnerships
- Showcase sustainable programs and projects
- Act as a catalyst for change

In the spirit of Earth Day 2000, the **Federal Network for Sustainability** shall be operational upon the signatures set forth below.

Robert D. Barbee,
Regional Director, Alaska Region
National Park Service

Chuck Clarke,
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 10, Seattle

Kenn Kojima,
Regional Administrator, Pacific Rim Region
General Services Administration

Felicia Marcus,
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco

Thomas (Tad) McCall,
Deputy Assistant of Air Force
Environment, Safety and Health

Elsie L. Munsell,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Navy
(Environment & Safety)

L. Jay Pearson,
Regional Administrator, Northwest Arctic Region
General Services Administration

Captain R. L. Phillips,
Commander, Southwest Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Kathy M. Pierce,
Director, Seattle Regional Office
U.S. Department of Energy

John J. Reynolds,
Regional Director, Pacific West Region
National Park Service

Karen Wade,
Regional Director, Intermountain Region
National Park Service